



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA



HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS PROGRAM 2024 REPORT

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IMAGE SOURCES (Covers): Getty Images.

IMAGE SOURCES (Interior): Bossier Parish Community College, Nicholls State University, SOWELA Technical Community College, University of Louisiana at Lafayette



Introduction

[Act 719 \(R.S. 17:3138.4\)](#) of the 2022 Legislative Session, sponsored by Representative Barbara Freiberg, is known as the Hunger-Free Campus (HFC) law. It required the Board of Regents to “establish a process for a postsecondary education institution to be designated as a “Hunger-Free Campus” and “establish a grant program” to provide funding to assist postsecondary education institutions in 1) raising awareness of resources available to address basic food needs, 2) leveraging existing infrastructure, 3) maximizing federal programs, and 4) building strategic partnerships at local, state and national levels to address food insecurity among students.

“We are scratching the surface of what needs to be done for our students,” Rep. Freiberg told the Board of Regents when the inaugural Hunger-Free campus designees were announced. “So these are just minimum requirements.”

The criteria for earning the Hunger-Free Campus designation are as follows:

- Establish a **Hunger-Free Task Force** that meets a minimum of three times per academic year and includes **a minimum of two or more enrolled students, a representative from the Office of Student Affairs, and a representative from the Office of Financial Aid;**
- Inform students who receive need-based financial aid of their potential eligibility to receive **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;**
- Hold or participate in **at least one anti-hunger awareness event per academic year;** and
- If no campus food pantries or charitable food distribution exist on campus, assess the need to **provide access to on-campus food distribution** through either a local off-campus food pantry, or an on-campus food pantry.

Background

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. The effects of food insecurity can have severe consequences on an individual's physical health, mental health, well-being, and school and work performance. A 2020 study (Health Affairs, 2022) found that approximately 29% of students at four-year colleges and 38% at two-year schools in the U.S. experience food insecurity. The numbers are substantially higher for students of color.

Research shows hungry students have [lower GPAs](#) and [struggle more to earn their degree](#) than students who know where their next meal is coming from (McCoy et al., 2022). Currently, “three in five college students do not have enough to eat or a stable place to live” (The Hope Center, 2023).

The National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS: 20) found that 23% of community college students and 22% of public four-year institution students reported low or very low food security in the last 30 days. Both rates were more than double the food insecurity rate among all U.S. households (Today's Student Coalition, 2024). In the past several years, universities have just started to understand the severity of the issue and consider solutions to provide access to food on their campuses. The pandemic exacerbated the situation, separating students from campus and community resources, and while some federal policies were flexible in expanding their assistance during this time, these have now expired.

Swipe Out Hunger, a leading national non-profit, is powering the movement to end college student hunger and is working with the Board of Regents to champion hunger solutions and build an active network of campuses and partners in Louisiana. Swipe Out Hunger originated the Hunger-Free Campus legislation and, in its advocacy, partnered with state leaders to customize the legislation to meet the needs of an individual state. In 2022, Louisiana was one of ten states to pass Hunger-Free legislation, and now twelve additional states have introduced this legislation (Swipe Out Hunger, 2024).

Methodology

To gauge resources and access to food statewide, in fall 2022 Regents staff conducted an environmental landscape survey of all public postsecondary system and Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) representatives requesting a campus contact and program-specific information from their member institutions.

Hunger-Free Designation Application

Regents staff then developed an application process aligned with the legislatively mandated criteria. The initial application for the Hunger-Free Campus designation was consequently sent to all public and private postsecondary institutions in the spring of 2023 (Appendix A).

A review of the applications found variability in how well-resourced campus food pantries were related to physical location, personnel, equipment, and funding. There were regional challenges, with under-resourced campuses often located in high-need areas. Food pantry facilities ranged from a wooden box routinely stocked with non-perishable food items and toiletries in a central campus location to a robust pantry that seeks to function as a one-stop shop for student needs, providing perishable and non-perishable food options, household supplies, a fresh vegetable garden, and cooking lessons.

There were also different levels of community engagement with campus food pantries. Some campuses offered their students only community resources, while others combined their on-campus efforts with community resources and donations from local churches, faculty, staff, and student organizations. Finally, some food pantries had designated staff who ran campus efforts in this area, while others relied on student workers for operations.

All Louisiana public postsecondary and four private institutions (Centenary College of Louisiana, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, Loyola University New Orleans, and Tulane University) met the minimum criteria for the HFC designation. The inaugural designees (Table 1) were announced to the Board of Regents at its August 2023 meeting.

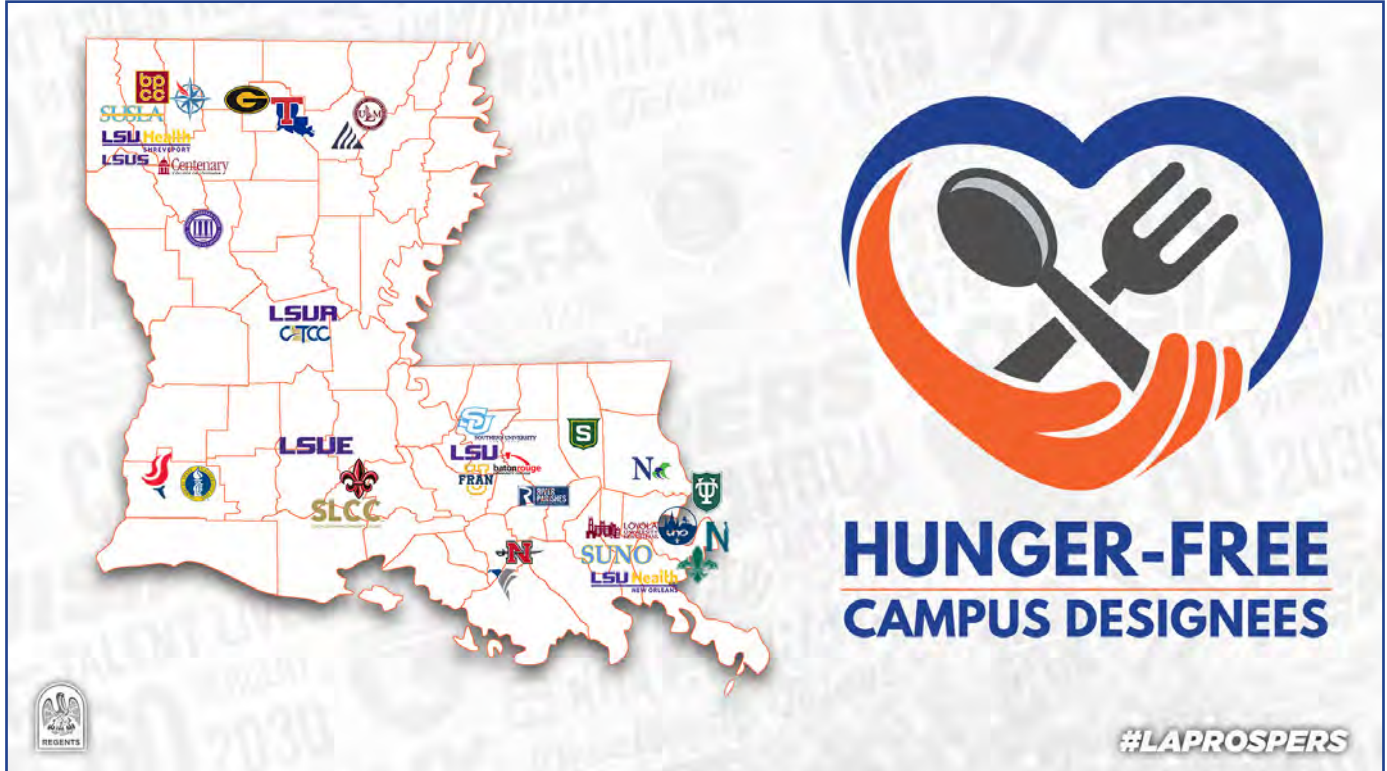


Table 1. 2023 Hunger-Free Campus Designees.

SYSTEM	INSTITUTION
Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Centenary College ▶ Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University ▶ Loyola University New Orleans ▶ Tulane University
Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Baton Rouge Community College ▶ Bossier Parish Community College ▶ Central Louisiana Technical Community College ▶ Delgado Community College ▶ Fletcher Technical Community College ▶ Louisiana Delta Community College ▶ Northshore Technical Community College ▶ Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College ▶ Nunez Community College ▶ River Parishes Community College ▶ South Louisiana Community College ▶ SOWELA Technical Community College
Louisiana State University System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Louisiana State University A&M ▶ Louisiana State University of Alexandria ▶ Louisiana State University Eunice ▶ Louisiana State University Shreveport ▶ LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans ▶ LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport
Southern University System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Southern University and A&M College ▶ Southern University at New Orleans ▶ Southern University Shreveport ▶ Southern University Law Center
University of Louisiana System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Grambling State University ▶ Louisiana Tech University ▶ McNeese State University ▶ Nicholls State University ▶ Northwestern State University ▶ Southeastern Louisiana University ▶ University of Louisiana at Lafayette ▶ University of Louisiana at Monroe ▶ University of New Orleans

► **Regents Community Partnerships**

In addition to its work on the HFC application, Regents was contacted by the community-based food pantry and advocacy organization Feeding Louisiana, seeking to partner with BOR and the HFC-designated campuses as a resource partner. Feeding Louisiana has prioritized the HFC program as one of its goals and is collaborating with Regents in these efforts.

Regents personnel were subsequently invited to speak about the HFC program at the Louisiana Anti-Hunger Coalition meeting, and to participate in the Coalition, and the agency is now a coalition member. Additionally, Regents staff are regularly asked to participate in community and advocacy efforts around the HFC Program in local and regional state events. Finally, Regents has partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health to explore access to these resources for our veteran students, and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid (LOSFA) has provided information and access to SNAP benefits for students.

► **Regents Campus Outreach**

From the inception of the HFC program, Regents staff recognized the importance of communication and relationships with the Hunger-Free Campus contacts. Quarterly meetings were scheduled beginning in 2022; local, regional, and national leaders have presented to the HFC institutional contacts on various topics covering SNAP eligibility, partnership with LSU Ag Center, LOFSA outreach efforts, and Swipe Out Hunger. These meetings also serve as an opportunity for campus representatives to exchange information and ask questions.

Additionally, a listserv was established with all institutional contacts, and a landing page for the Hunger-Free Campus Program was created on the Board of Regents website, which can be accessed at www.laregents.edu/hungerfree.

Campus Needs Assessment Results

Once the HFC designees were in place, in early spring 2024 Regents staff sent out a needs assessment instrument to inform the grant application. All 35 HFC designees were sent the survey. The goal of the assessment was to obtain information about how to help institutions augment the amount and nature of the services they provide to their students and identify their greatest needs.

The needs assessment survey results ([HFC Campus Needs Assessment Survey](#)) were integral in shaping the grant application process. The assessment consisted of 25 questions combining multiple-choice and free narrative questions. The survey yielded critical information about issues faced by institutions in providing access and resources to their students. HFC representatives were asked to answer questions about their campus offerings, location, budget, staffing, community

partnerships, and number of students served. Twenty-seven institutions responded to the survey. Table 2 lists campus offerings that are currently available to students. 88.9% of campuses have established food pantries, 51.8% provide enrollment support for SNAP, and 40.7% offer emergency food scholarships or grants.

Table 2. Current Campus Offerings.

PROGRAM	OFFERED
Food Pantry	88.9%
SNAP/Enrollment Support	51.8%
Food Scholarships/Emergency Grants	40.7%
Meal Swipe Donation program	25.9%
Community Garden	22.2%
Basic Needs Hub	18.5%
Cooking Classes	14.8%
Campus Kitchens/Food Recovery Network Chapter	11.1%
Campus Farmers' Markets	7.41%
Free Food Alert system	7.41%
EBT Accepted On-Campus	3.70%
Transportation to Community Food Pantry	3.70%

27 respondents





Campus respondents shared that they would like to expand their services to students in several ways (Table 3), such as providing enrollment support for SNAP and expanding the pantry to include a basic needs hub. The SNAP application can be challenging for students; therefore, being able to support students by helping them fill out the application is crucial for a student to plug into available resources. Several campuses indicated demand for a basic needs hub or expanded pantry support. A basic needs hub provides essentials such as toiletries, personal hygiene products, diapers, and formula for students with babies.

Table 3. Food Insecurity-Related Programs to Add to Campus Network.

PROGRAM	RESPONSE RATE
SNAP/enrollment support	16.67%
SNAP information	16.67%
Basic Needs Hub or expanded pantry support	12.5%
Food Pantry	8.3%
Meal Swipe Donation program	8.3%
Food scholarships/Emergency grants	8.3%
Campus farmers’ markets	4.2%
EBT accepted on-campus	4.1%

24 respondents

When asked, “What is their most pressing need?” campuses reported various items (Table 4) ranging

from resource limitations to lack of transportation. A common theme threading the responses regarded “meeting student’s needs”; one of the responses was especially poignant as it related to working with students who come from food-insecure families and how the students are also trying to help their families. This clearly illustrates that the scope of the need stretches well beyond the campus to all areas of students’ lives.

Table 4. Most Pressing Hunger-Free Campus Need.

NEED
Consistent food supply for the campus pantry
SNAP Assistance and educational programs
When students have food-insecure families and are trying to help
Funding for staff
A van to pick up food
Additional funds to supplement items for the food pantries when supplies are not available through the foodbank partners
Pantry expansion and support
Funds for campus pantry, we run solely off donations
To provide more resources to meet student needs
The ability to store fresh produce
Bigger space
More shelving, community partnerships, and pantries at our rural sites
Support for supplying food pantry and promoting available resources to students
Assistance with receiving a greater variety of foods

26 respondents

One of the survey questions asked the institution to share its program’s biggest challenges. Campus responses were wide-ranging, including needing kitchen equipment, funding for staff, a steady supply of food options, collaboration with partners to bring awareness of food insecurity and basic needs resources on campus; by far the most pressing need was lack of refrigeration or freezer capacity to store more nutritional options for students utilizing the pantry. Table 5 reports the percentage of institutions reporting that they do not have adequate freezer and/or refrigeration space for the pantry.

Table 5. Adequate Freezer and/or Refrigeration Space.*

ANSWER	RESPONSE RATE
My program does not have adequate freezer space.	60%
My program has adequate refrigeration space.	44%
My program does not have adequate refrigeration space.	40%
My program has adequate freezer space.	36%

25 respondents

*Respondents were able to select all that apply

The final two charts (Tables 6 and 7) relate to funding of campus food pantries. The needs assessment included two questions: how programs are funded and the total budget. Table 6 indicates that most pantries do not have stable funding; 33.3% rely on donations and 29.2% on grants and vendor partnerships. Given the uncertainty surrounding funding, it is challenging for these institutions to plan year-to-year or make expansion plans.

Twenty-four campuses responded to the question regarding their estimated total budget (Table 7) for AY 2022-2023. Eight campuses indicated a \$0 budget, reflecting that they were entirely dependent on donations to function. Five campuses have an allocated budget of up to \$5,000 per year. Three campuses have an allocated budget between \$5,001 and \$15,000 per year. Two campuses have an allocated budget of more than \$15,001 per year, and six indicated that the information was unavailable (N/A).



Table 6. Program Funding.

FUNDING SOURCE	RESPONSE RATE
Donations (alumni foundation, staff payroll deductions)	33.3%
Unsure or other funding source not listed*	29.2%
Community organization	20.8%
Student fees	8.3%
Shared budget with other departments or campus dining	4.2%
Student organization funding	4.2%

25 respondents

* Community grants, donations from other non-profits, vendor partnerships

Table 7. Estimated Total Budget for AY 2022-2023.

FUNDING AMOUNT	INSTITUTIONS
\$0	8
\$1 – \$5,000	5
\$5,001 – \$15,000	3
\$15,001 – \$20,000	1
\$20,001+	1
N/A	6

24 respondents

In summary, the needs assessment was an invaluable resource for Regents staff in crafting the award application and understanding the scope of these resource availability statewide.

► **Award Application and Process**

As prescribed by the law, Regents developed a Request for Applications (Appendix B), the instrument through which the Hunger-Free Campus designees could apply for the HFC Award. Regents allocated \$48,000 in seed money to award six public postsecondary institutions \$8,000 each to support their institutions’ Hunger-Free Campus initiatives. The closing date for the RFA was April 3, 2024, and the winners were announced in April 2024.

The RFA identified six areas that were scored on a 0-to-5-point scale.

Table 8. Application Rating Categories.

CATEGORY
Provided the complete name of the institution and Hunger-Free Campus Initiative contact information
Identified any additional support to be provided by the institution when expending award funds and confirmation of support by institution leadership
Described how this award will support the mission of the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative at the submitting institution
Described how the institution will utilize the award funds to innovatively support the initiative
Explained how these funds will be utilized to benefit students accessing the food pantry or the work of the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative
Provided a detailed and appropriate budget

Hunger-Free Grant Awardees

Applications were reviewed and scored by an internal committee made up of Regents staff; the Board of Regents funded six \$8,000 grants to the winners: Louisiana Delta Community College, LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport, South Louisiana Community College, Southern University Shreveport, University of Louisiana at Monroe, and University of New Orleans.

The RFA included a requirement that each award winner submit a narrative reporting how the funds were spent and explain how the expenditures supported students at the institution by August 31, 2024. The descriptions below were taken from individual campus submissions.

Louisiana Delta Community College. This budget narrative outlines the expenditure of funds for the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative for Louisiana Delta Community College’s (LDCC’s) six campus sites. The project aimed to provide funding to assist public postsecondary institutions with their hunger-free campus efforts by creating food-to-go pantries for six campus sites. Additionally, LDCC purchased paper bags to distribute food to students and shelving to store food. The food purchased included food-to-go microwavable breakfast and lunch items, cereal bars, juice, noodles, soup, tuna, and water.

LDCC efficiently utilized the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative grant funds, adhering to the budget while achieving all project goals. All expenditures were necessary and contributed directly to successfully creating six food-to-go pantries. Campus site representatives reported students are appreciative and thankful for the food bags because many students are hungry when they arrive. We also received reports that some students are dropped off and do not have transportation to leave campus until the end of the day. This support students receive through the food-to-go pantries can play a crucial role in alleviating food insecurities and helping students focus on their studies.

LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport. Table 9 represents the information provided by LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport.

Table 9. Hunger-Free Campus Budget Narrative Report, LSU Health Shreveport.

SUPPLIES	NOV. 2024	DELIVERY FEE	ASSEMBLY FEE	TOTAL
Freezer/Refrigerator	\$7,089.00	–	–	\$7,089.00
Storage	\$749.95	–	\$100.00	\$759.95
Total Supplies	\$7,838.95	–	\$100.00	\$7,938.95
Justification: An upright refrigerator and freezer will be purchased to store frozen and perishable items. A storage cabinet will be purchased to store non-perishable items in a secure location.				
OTHER	DEC. 2024	APRIL 2025		TOTAL
Flyers	\$30.00	\$30.00	–	\$60.00
Total Other	\$30.00	\$30.00	–	\$60.00
Justification: Flyers will be used to advertise at all campus locations to inform students of distribution days.				
TOTAL PROJECT COST/YEAR				\$7,998.95

South Louisiana Community College. The \$8,000 Hunger-Free Award from the Louisiana Board of Regents was strategically allocated to enhance SoLAcc’s campus food pantry programs and ensure that all students have access to nutritious food options. This funding was divided into two primary categories: food purchases and refrigeration systems. The allocation of \$4,209.28 was dedicated to purchasing a diverse range of cold and shelf-stable food items for SoLAcc campus pantries. Items purchased included:

- Cold Food Items: Fresh produce, dairy products, and meats, which are essential for providing balanced meals.
- Shelf-Stable Food Items: Non-perishable items such as canned goods, pasta, rice, and cereals that are crucial for ensuring consistent access to food, especially for students facing financial difficulties.

The remaining \$3,790.72 was invested in single-door refrigerated systems, which were distributed across all nine SoLAcc campuses. These systems are essential for the proper storage and preservation of perishable food items. The addition of refrigerated systems allows SoLAcc pantries to offer a greater variety of perishable items. This helps the College better meet the needs of students who rely on the pantry for not only non-perishable items but also fresh food options.

The \$8,000 Hunger-Free Award from the Louisiana Board of Regents has made a significant impact on SoLAcc. By investing in both food supplies and refrigeration systems, SoLAcc has been able to significantly enhance its campus food pantries. The availability of diverse and nutritious food options, coupled with improved storage capabilities, supports students’ well-being and academic success. This initiative reflects SoLAcc’s ongoing commitment to reducing food insecurity and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.

Southern University Shreveport. Table 10 represents the information provided by Southern University Shreveport.

Table 10. Hunger-Free Campus Budget Narrative Report, Southern University Shreveport.

PERISHABLES	OCT. 2024	FEB. 2025	APRIL 2025	TOTAL
Total Perishables	\$833.33	\$833.33	\$833.33	\$2,500.00
Justification: Frozen, seasonal fresh fruit, vegetables and dairy items will be purchased three times per year.				
NON-PERISHABLES	DEC. 2024	MARCH 2025	MAY 2025	TOTAL
Total Non-Perishables	\$1,333.33	\$1,006.35	\$1,333.33	\$3,673.01
Justification: Canned, boxed, jarred, and self-stable items will be purchased and stored for students to access when in need.				
PERSONAL HYGIENE	OCT. 2024	FEB. 2025	MAY 2025	TOTAL
Total Personal Hygiene	\$166.66	\$166.67	\$166.67	\$500.00
Justification: Unisex personal hygiene products will be purchased three times per year.				
SUPPLIES	SEP. 2024	DELIVERY FEE	ASSEMBLY FEE	TOTAL
Freezer	\$799.00	\$29.00	–	\$828.00
Storage	\$189.99	–	\$109.00	\$298.99
Total Supplies	\$988.89	\$29.00	\$109.00	\$1,126.99
Justification: An upright freezer will be purchased to store frozen and perishable items. A storage cabinet will be purchased to store non-perishable items and personal hygiene products in a secure location.				
OTHER	JAN. 2025	APRIL 2025		TOTAL
Flyers	\$50.00	\$50.00	–	\$100.00
Social Media	\$50.00	\$50.00	–	\$100.00
Total Other	\$100.00	\$100.00	–	\$200.00
Justification: Flyers and social media will be used to advertise at all campus locations to inform students of distribution days.				
TOTAL PROJECT COST/YEAR				\$8,000.00

University of Louisiana at Monroe. The ULM Food Pantry has used the award (Table 11) to purchase a commercial refrigerator and freezer unit to increase and store food storage options which can be combined to create balanced meals including dairy and frozen meats and vegetables. ULM secured delivery service from the Louisiana Food Bank to help eliminate transportation issues on campus. They

were using a moving truck from campus that has since been removed due to prior mechanical issues. They expanded available pantry items to include fresh vegetables and fruits from the local market and added basic toiletries, purchased additional shelving to increase storage capacity, and secured a student worker dedicated to managing the services on campus.

Table 11. Hunger-Free Campus Budget Narrative Report, University of Louisiana at Monroe.

PERISHABLES	AUG. 2024	SEPT. 2024	OCT. 2024	TOTAL
Total Perishables	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00
Frozen, seasonal fresh fruit, vegetables and dairy items to be purchased once a month.				
NON-PERISHABLES	AUG. 2024	SEPT. 2024	OCT. 2024	TOTAL
Total Non-Perishables	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00
Canned, boxed, jarred, and shelf-stable items will be purchased once a month.				
PERSONAL HYGIENE	AUG. 2024	SEPT. 2024	OCT. 2024	TOTAL
Total Personal Hygiene	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00
Unisex personal hygiene products will be purchased once a month.				
SUPPLIES	AUG. 2024	SEPT. 2024	OCT. 2024	TOTAL
Freezer	\$1,192.00	–	–	\$1,192.00
Refrigerator	\$3,255.00	–	–	\$3,255.00
Storage	\$198.99	–	–	\$198.99
Total Supplies	\$4,645.99	–	–	\$4,645.99
Commercial-grade freezer, refrigerator and storage shelves will be purchased to store frozen, perishable and non-perishable items (one-time purchase).				
OTHER	AUG. 2024	SEPT. 2024	OCT. 2024	TOTAL
Student Worker	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Student Worker dedicated to managing Food Pantry services paid bi -weekly.				
TOTAL PROJECT COST/YEAR				\$7,345.99

University of New Orleans. The Hunger-Free Campus Award has enhanced the University of New Orleans’ impact on student well-being and opened new collaboration opportunities for our Privateer Pantry (established in 2017). Our goals included: expanding the Privateer Pantry with “brain food” stations in tutoring centers, promoting the pantry to new students, and boosting sustainability efforts, such as improving food storage and starting a community garden. Addressing food insecurity helps students succeed academically and personally, easing stress and financial burdens. Table 12 below outlines how the money was spent.

Table 12. Hunger-Free Campus Award Impact, University of New Orleans.

ITEM	IMPACT	COST
Lockers	Expanded Privateer Pantry access to create “brain food” stations in campus tutoring centers.	\$588.00
Push Carts	Allowed for delivery to restock “brain food” stations.	\$232.84
Privateer Pantry Info Cards and Signage	As a result of increased promotion to new students, more than 25 first-time freshmen are using the Pantry in just the first two weeks of classes.	\$722.25
Can Openers	Many shelf-stable foods come in cans—these can openers ensure that our students have access to the food items we provide.	\$319.20
Privateer Pantry Totes	These totes provide regular pantry users with a reusable option for transporting their items.	\$1,995.00
Privateer Pantry Lunch Kits	These kits provide pantry users with reusable containers and utensils to pack their lunches to bring to campus.	\$1,168.00
Privateer Pantry Reusable Food Storage Bags	These bags encourage pantry users to save any leftover product to reduce food waste.	\$1,143.00
Community Garden Supplies	Our family housing units will install raised beds this fall to teach students and their families about growing their own food and increasing access to fresh produce.	\$915.00
Privateer Pantry Promo Video	A UNO student is creating a video to promote the Pantry and its impact. We offered them a small stipend to complete the work.	\$250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$7,333.29

Recommendations and Next Steps

The process of fulfilling the requirements of Act 719 (2022) took a little over two years to complete. During that time, Regents staff engaged with campus representatives to discuss their needs and concerns. Via the application, needs assessment survey, and, finally, the award application process, Regents staff learned that there is wide variation in institutional efforts to help food-insecure students statewide.

Some efforts are robust and, in many cases, provide additional wrap-around services to help students navigate this process. Some wrap-around services include providing basic needs supplies, a community garden that provides fresh vegetables, computers that students can sign out each year free of charge, a career closet where students can borrow gently used professional clothing for interviews, and, finally, the opportunity to borrow a cap and gown for graduation.

However, there are still too many institutions, at both the two- and four-year levels, that lack the funds, infrastructure, and staffing needed to operate a food pantry. These institutions offer students non-perishable food items and snacks that are more short-term solutions to tide the students over rather than resources they can depend on regularly. For example, many community colleges do not have on-campus dining and are in more rural communities lacking on-site services. Many of these institutions partner closely with community and church pantries to fill the gaps. The HFC Award allowed four of the six winners to purchase a refrigerator, freezer, or both in addition to food and storage units.

Now that the Hunger-Free Program has been established statewide, Regents seeks to build on the past two years' work by serving as a conduit to continue bringing national, state, and community leaders to speak to our HFC designees about best practices and connect them to needed resources. Regents has identified several areas where we can support our HFC campuses in the future:

- Have institutions partner with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to schedule SNAP eligibility sign-up days every semester.
- Review statewide SNAP eligibility requirements to determine if policies can be modified to include more low-income students.
- Meet with the Hunger-Free Task Force on each campus to discuss ongoing campus programming and efforts.
- Request state funding for the Hunger-Free Campus Program during the 2025 Legislative Session.
- Create Tiers of Distinction of Gold, Silver, and Bronze for the HFCs to apply for if they wish. These tiers will recognize additional efforts beyond those required for the HFC designation.
- Meet with members of the Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) to explore their interest in supporting the hunger-free campus initiatives on their respective campuses.

Conclusion

The correlation between food insecurity and student success has been established, and addressing this in Louisiana will require funding and policy flexibility to support the institutions in their efforts to provide quality resources to students. To that end, the Board of Regents is requesting \$5 million in multi-year funding for specific programs to help students facing food insecurity in addition to other budget requests to increase student financial aid and campus operating funds. However, that is not the complete story; institutions must evaluate current services based on student needs and consider how partnerships can be developed to expand resources to aid food-insecure students as they work toward degree completion.

The implications of food insecurity affect more than students' well-being; there are acute physical and mental health effects that, if not relieved, can have an irreparable impact on the individual and their future. A 2021 study by Wolfson et al., published in *Public Health Nutrition*, found that:



“Students experiencing food insecurity, particularly those who are first-generation students, are less likely to graduate from college. Given the importance of education and educational attainment as social determinants of health, these findings underscore an important pathway through which the experience of food insecurity during college can have long-term adverse effects. Policies and programs at the federal, state, and college/university levels are urgently needed to address student food insecurity.”

The prevalence of food insecurity among Louisiana’s college students has been established. With the dedicated efforts of the HFC designees, institutional representatives, and community partners, we can begin to make inroads to address this critical need and provide our students with the necessary resources to attain their postsecondary credentials. Our Master Plan goal of 60% credential attainment by 2030 depends on this.

In soliciting the campus narratives submitted for the Award program, we asked them to provide examples of how this grant would support their students. One of the winning institutions submitted the following anecdote, underscoring how vital this work is for our students and why we must keep working to ensure that our students have what they need to be successful. As one student said:

“I am so grateful for the [Privateer Pantry] and wanted you to know that your support in giving me food, washing powder for my clothes, snacks, tissue, and that can opener I needed so bad helped me get through school without thinking about survival, and I don’t know what I would have done if you weren’t on campus to help students in need. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

References

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Appendix A

Hunger-Free Campus Designation Application



LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS
P.O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677

O: 225-342-4253
F: 225-342-9318

www.laregents.edu

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS (HFC) DESIGNATION

Pursuant to Act 719 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session

I. Eligibility Criteria for Hunger-Free Campus Designation

Each institution seeking this designation must, at a minimum:

- a. Establish a HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS TASK FORCE that meets a minimum of three times per academic year and
 - i. Includes, at a minimum, two or more enrolled students, a representative of the Office of Student Affairs, and a representative of the Office of Financial Aid.
- b. Inform students who receive need-based financial aid of their potential eligibility; for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;
- c. Hold or participate in at least one anti-hunger awareness event per academic year; and
- d. If no campus food pantries or charitable food distribution programs exist on campus, assess the need to provide access to on-campus food distribution, through a local off-campus food pantry, or an on-campus food pantry.

II. To demonstrate eligibility to seek the Hunger-Free Campus (HFC) designation, provide a summary of campus efforts in the following areas:

- a. Hunger-Free Campus Task Force membership, composition, and meeting schedule (showing compliance with the law, as outlined in Section I.a.i above);
- b. Communication with need-based aid recipients, informing them of potential eligibility for SNAP benefits;
- c. Anti-Hunger Campus Event (date, time, location, participating units);
- d. Either (a) an existing on-campus food pantry or charitable food distribution program or (b) an assessment of the need for student access to an on-campus food pantry or food distribution, or a local off-campus food pantry; and
- e. Any additional information you wish the Board of Regents to consider.

III. Include in the campus submission documentation of approval of the Division Leader responsible for institutional HFC designation efforts.



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HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS (HFC) DESIGNATION APPLICATION

Pursuant to Act 719 of the 2022 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session

Institution Information

Institution Name _____

HFC Lead/Title _____

Email Address _____

Department Information

Where will the institution's HFC designation efforts reside? Who will be responsible?

Department/Area _____

Campus _____

Rep./Title _____

Email _____

Hunger-Free Campus Task Force

Please provide a summary of your campus efforts, including Task Force members, composition, and meeting schedule.



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SNAP Benefits Communication

Provide a summary of how the institution informs students of potential SNAP eligibility.

Anti-Hunger Campus Event

Provide information about your institution's event.

Date

Time

Location

Participating Units (if collaborating with other institutions, specify):

Charitable Food Access

1) Does the institution provide access to a charitable food distribution on campus or through a local community food pantry? YES / NO

If yes, please describe.



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*2) Does your institution have a meal swipe donation program, or any other program not listed above to support access to food for students, faculty or staff? **YES / NO***

If yes, please describe.

Additional Comments

Provide any additional information you wish the Board of Regents to consider.



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Approving Representative (division leader where HFC Designation resides)

Signature

Date

Appendix B

Request for Applications



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) Hunger-Free Campus Initiative 2024 Award Program

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. PURPOSE OF THIS RFA

Act 719 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the “Hunger-Free Campus” designation program for all Louisiana postsecondary institutions. The statute sets forth the criteria institutions must meet to receive the designation and charges the Board of Regents with developing an application and grant program for campuses that receive the designation. In 2023, all Louisiana public postsecondary, and four private postsecondary institutions met the minimum requirements to receive the designation. To enact the charge of the legislation, the Board of Regents is seeking to award six Louisiana public postsecondary institutions \$8,000 each to support the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative at their institutions.

B. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR; QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS RFA

Written inquiries concerning this RFA and the requirements set forth herein must be directed to Dr. Lupe Lamadrid, Senior Policy Analyst, at lupe.lamadrid@laregents.edu. Questions will be accepted only in writing and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. CDT on March 27, 2024. All questions submitted related to this RFA and all answers provided in response to these questions will be posted on the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative page on the Louisiana Board of Regents website (<https://www.laregents.edu/hungerfree/>) no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on April 3, 2024. In order to ensure that all interested parties receive the same information, no questions will be accepted after the deadline.

C. PUBLIC NATURE OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

Once an application is received by Regents, it becomes public record. Submitting entities should be aware that if a request for an application is made by the public, a copy of the application, by law, must be provided.

D. ELIGIBILITY

Each Louisiana public postsecondary institution **is eligible to apply for the award**. Due to the quick turnaround for spending dollars, an Interagency Transfer Agreement (ITA) will be created between the Board of Regents and each selected institution.

II. PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

All applications must be complete upon submission and must be submitted via email to lupe.lamadrid@laregents.edu. No other form of submission will be accepted. All applications must document approval of the designee of the president/chancellor of the submitting institution. The submission deadline is absolute, and no materials will be accepted after the date and time published in this RFA. A submitted application may be withdrawn for editing if the submitting entity determines revisions are needed, but the revised version must be received before the deadline. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of the application.

The applications will be reviewed by a selection committee, and all results will be final. The selection committee will use the application rating criteria provided in Section IV of this RFA to score each application. The six applications with the highest scores will be selected. Notifications of award selections will be emailed on April 24, 2024.

A. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

All narrative sections of the application should be presented in a single PDF document with pages numbered, one-inch margins at the top, bottom, and on each side, and in type no smaller than 12 point.

The application should describe the submitting entity's plan in detail. The description shall include, but not be limited to the following information:

1. Name of Institution

- Provide the name of the submitting entity.

2. Hunger-Free Campus Primary Contact Information

- Provide the name and contact information of the primary contact person for the application.

3. Mission and Goals

- Provide information about how this award will support the mission of the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative at your institution.

4. Support and Resources

- Identify any additional support to be provided by the institution when expending award funds.
- Describe how your institution will utilize the funds if selected to receive the award.
- Explain how these funds will be utilized to benefit students accessing food pantry benefits or support.

5. Reporting and Communication

- By August 31, 2024, each award recipient will submit a budget narrative detailing how the funds were expended and describing how the funds benefited students at the institution.

6. Additional Information

- Provide any additional data or materials the institution would like the selection committee to consider as they evaluate the application.

7. Project Budget

8. HFC Representative and Designee of the President/Chancellor Approval Page

B. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Program resources are limited and must be used only to support direct work of the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative and in accordance with the guidelines below. The project must detail and fully justify all expenses included in the proposed budget in relation to project and program goals.

1. DISALLOWED BUDGET ITEMS

Given the targeted nature of Hunger-Free Campus Initiative support and the short-term nature of the project, these funds may not be used to establish long-term maintenance contracts for equipment.

Initiative funds may not provide for shortfalls or deficits in budgets, tuition payments, augmentation of salaries of individuals pursuing regularly assigned duties (except regular merit or cost-of-living increases), or unspecified contingencies.

Discounts received for equipment purchases may not be counted as part of institutional support (if applicable).

2. OTHER EXPENSES

Except as noted in the Disallowed Budget Items section, and subject to state procurement and purchasing guidelines, support may be budgeted for any activity necessary for project work, as explained and justified. Any travel expenses must comply with State procedures and rates set forth by the Division of Administration Policy and Procedure Memorandum 49 (the State General Travel Regulations).

III. TIMETABLE:

March 20, 2024	RFA Issued
March 27, 2024, by 4:00 p.m., CDT	Deadline for submission of questions about the RFA
April 10, 2024 by 4:00 p.m., CDT	Application submission deadline
April 17, 2024	Applications are reviewed and scored by the selection committee.

April 24, 2024	Selection of application(s) announced by email and posted to the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative page on the Louisiana Board of Regents website.
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IV. PROJECT ACTIVATION DATE, TIMELINE, AND DURATION

Once the selections are announced, the Board of Regents will execute an Interagency Transfer Agreement (ITA) with each selected institution. The institution must report how the funds were spent, and explain how the expenditures supported students at the institution by August 31, 2024.

Application Rating Form and Scoring Rubric

Each category will be scored on a 0-to-5-point scale.

Category	Points Available
Provided complete name of institution and Hunger-Free Campus Initiative contact information	5
Identified any additional support to be provided by the institution when expending award funds and confirmation of support by institution leadership	5
Described how this award will support the mission of the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative at the submitting institution	5
Described how the institution will utilize the award funds to innovatively support the initiative.	5
Explained how these funds will be utilized to benefit students accessing the food pantry or the work of the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative	5
Provided a detailed and appropriate budget	5
Total	30

SIGNATURE PAGE

To be included with the submitted application.

Hunger-Free Campus Representative

Date

Designee of the President/Chancellor

Date



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